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# Delay in road upgrading project ire public and threatens to explode because of government's disregard, disrespect and their general don't care attitude towards communities

The North West provincial government under the leadership of the African National Congress has once again displayed their attar disgusting attitude towards the local community and the general public in Mahikeng.

How else does one describe the failure by the Busy Maape-led provincial administration to ensure that they complete developmental projects or any other government initiated programmes directly affecting the lives and well-being of communities in the area?

We agree with the angry sentiments expressed by the now fed-up members of the public who recently threatened to stand-up against the provincial government for their failure to ensure that those in government actually deliver on the numerous promises made to local residents.

The failure by the provincial administration to ensure the department of public works and roads actually carries out the completion of the upgrading of the Nelson Mandela Drive in central Mafikeng is a case in point and who in their right frame of minds can blame the usually very patient community who includes local businesses owners, motorists and other professional individuals.

The provincial government, their municipalities and councillors don't seem to appreciate the patience shown by the public especially when it comes to service delivery issues which they know they are responsible for.

It is unacceptable, we agree, that by now, government has failed dismally to address issues like the provision of adequate, drinkable and safe water. They have failed for repair damaged roads infested with potholes on all local roads in residential areas with communities in the Units in Mmabatho mostly affected while those in Golfview and Riviera Park and other suburban areas have not escaped the challenges. All road infrastructures in the entire Mahikeng precinct including in all village settlements are in a very bad state, the entire town is unacceptably very dirty with very long grass on display everywhere and all that government can say is, "we are aware of these challenges and we are working on programmes to address them", blaming the problems on the "lack of sufficient public funds".

Their lack of interest in addressing these and other pressing issues affecting communities is obvious.

All government departments in the province have recently presented and accepted their administrative annual budgets with billions of rands availed to these departments to province much needed service to communities and all municipalities will next month receive their thousands of millions of rands earmarked for the new financial year which comes into effect on July 1.

Once again, we will be watching with interest at the financial spending by government and its different administrations as undertook by MECs during their annual budget presentations.

The less said about reports of blatant fraud and corruption in especially municipalities, the better. Ignoring annual audit reports in both government and municipalities is sickening to say the least.

We repeat, the anger expressed by the local business community and ordinary road users in the city about the delay in the completion of the Nelson Mandela Drive road project which commenced last year should not be under-estimated by the North West government.

All businesses operating on or near the Nelson Mandela Drive including those at nearby shopping malls - The Mahikeng Mall and The Crossing - nearby petrol filling stations, tiles centres, legal firms, bottle stores and many others have suffered great financial losses because of the daily heavy traffic jams on the road.

However, the people have and continue to remain patient with this government and its problems. They have chosen to remain quiet - for now.

But we are worried that according to the lasted information from the contractor, they expect to complete the project within the next six months or even longer if the contractor, their engineers and the department of public works and roads can sought out the layout of the road which was not included in the original tender specifications

Six months or even longer, can you believe it!

When he reacted to our questions about the delay, COGTA MEC, Nono Maloyi told Mahikeng Mail last week that, "we are aware of the delay by the contractor to complete the project. But we expect them to finish the entire project by the end of November.

"If not, there will be serious consequences", Maloyi warned.

